

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kenji ASAKURA et al.

Group Art Unit : 2852

Appl. No. : 10/779,615

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : February 18, 2004

For : IMAGE HEATING DEVICE



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,

Applicants call to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 10-232575, which was published on September 2, 1998, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 1 of the specification;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 09-160406, which was published on June 20, 1997, together with an English language Abstract of the same; and

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-006658, which was published on January 11, 2002, together with an English language Abstract of the same.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached and have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the Form to the

Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending, commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/386,196 to SHIMIZU et al., entitled "Heating Device Using Electromagnetic Induction and Fuser," which was filed on March 11, 2003;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/757,988 to MONDA et al., entitled "Heating Device and Fuser Utilizing Electromagnetic Induction," which was filed on January 16, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/765,974 to NONAKA et al., entitled "Heat Generating Apparatus Using Electromagnetic Induction," which was filed on January 29, 2004; and

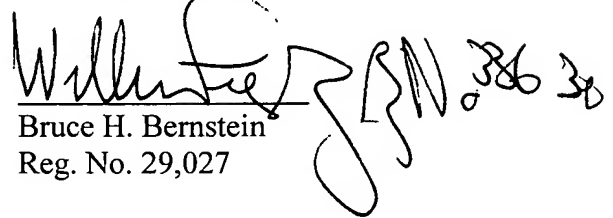
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/765,918 to NONAKA et al., entitled "Electric Power Apparatus, Electromagnetic Induction Fixing Apparatus and Image Forming Apparatus Using the Same," which was filed on January 29, 2004.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-noted applications are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the instant application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenji ASAKURA et al.


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May 18, 2004
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